

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1761, December 20, 1952

## BRINGING NEW LIFE TO THE SAHARA

### Trees may halt the spreading sand

LAST September the CN reported the departure from London of a small party of the Men of the Trees who have gone to the Sahara to find out to what extent trees can be grown there again. News of the seed-planting explorers has now reached us from the middle of the great desert.

Before leaving, members of the expedition stood in Trafalgar Square beside their safari car to receive gifts of seeds of various kinds as tokens of goodwill sent from the heart of London to the heart of the Sahara. Now many of the Trafalgar Square peach stones have found a permanent home at faraway Tamanrasset, in the centre of the vast North African waste.

#### GRUESOME FINDS

Motoring through the Sahara is very different from a Saturday afternoon jaunt to the English seaside, and these tree-pioneers relate that when French officers search for an overdue traveller, they occasionally come across a derelict car and, perhaps, a few scattered bones—all that remains of an over-bold driver who had set out to cross the desert.

Some reckless folk little realise the immensity of this parched territory, larger than the United States, and the long, waterless trail that lies ahead of the overlander. Without warning wells dry up, and tracks change from year to year.

The four Tree-Men of the Sahara University Expedition, led by Mr. R. St. Barbe Baker, had a

gruelling experience, testing both the men and their vehicle, in their arduous journey to the stony heart of the desert.

For days they travelled through treeless, waterless country, where the stones on the ground and the mountainsides are blackened by the heat of the sun. They had driven 1310 miles south of Algiers when the sight of trees gladdened their eyes.

The trees were in the isolated French military station of Tamanrasset—a Foreign Legion kind of place—4500 feet up in the mountains of Ahaggar. They had been planted by a former commander of the legion.

#### TREES FOR PROTECTION

The trees were chiefly tamarisk, but there were also Lombardy poplars protecting a small irrigated nursery where young fruit trees are being raised, and apricots, peaches, figs, oranges, grape vines.

Tamanrasset itself consists of an orange-red fort and houses of curiously original architecture. It stands in a vast plain surrounded by grotesquely-shaped mountains.

As well as the Londoners' peach stones, some seeds of Robinia Acacia were given to the French captain, and will form new avenues.

Trees are man's greatest weapon in the battle against the deserts. They precipitate moisture, prevent the soil drifting, and provide life-giving humus.

#### PAST FORESTS

The Sahara once had many trees, and the present Tree-Men found plenty of evidence of past forests—fragments of tree trunks which must have been flourishing not very long ago. They spoke to an old man who remembered when there were trees on mountains which now are stark and bare.

The forests have gone, and with them water and all life. Today the Sahara advances 30 miles every year.

These four enterprising men in a world of sand have made a start in the opposite direction, a movement for the international planting of trees in ever-growing numbers until the desert halts, grows green, and accepts defeat.

The expedition has gone south to Kano, in Nigeria, where it will turn east towards Uganda and Kenya.



## LINCOLN IN DURHAM

A splendid bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln has been presented to Ushaw College, Durham, by Mr. Joseph Scott, a Los Angeles attorney and an old boy of the college.

Mr. Scott stayed in America, but thought so highly of his old school



that he sent his four sons to England to be educated there.

The bust was made by Mr. Atri Brown, the well-known sculptor, who is seen in the picture at work in his Fulham studio.

## DAVID'S DOLLAR

Eight-year-old David Dubinski of Milwaukee on Lake Michigan was worried when he heard that the Canadian Government was to build the St. Lawrence Seaway without help from America. For David's father said that the new seaway would bring more ships to Milwaukee, and it seemed to David unfair that Americans in his home town should benefit without making any contribution towards the great undertaking.

So he sent off a dollar to the Canadian Government with a letter explaining that he wanted to help pay for the St. Lawrence Seaway.

A few days later David received an important-looking letter. Inside was his dollar with an autographed photograph of the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, who wrote that, "the Parliament has approved a method of financing this venture and therefore it might be embarrassing, if not improper, if we were to accept this gift."

So David has a fine memento of his generous good-neighbourly gesture.

## Poise

Skating together in graceful unison at Richmond Ice Rink are Valda Osborn, 18-year-old British Figure Skating Champion, and six-year-old Margaret Hankinson, who recently came fourth in the Annual Wembley Open Novices event

## MONEY FOR NOTHING NOT WANTED

From Vancouver comes the story of a man trying to give away one-dollar notes. He held them out to passers-by and displayed a placard which said, "Please take one."

Hundreds went by and shook their heads with a knowing smile. A woman remarked sagely: "People don't give good money away for nothing."

It recalls similar stories. Several years ago a celebrated conjurer stood in London's crowded Oxford Street for a whole afternoon trying to sell genuine £1 notes for a penny. He had no customers.

## SANTA CLAUS JUST DROPS IN

Watched by thousands of people, a red-robed figure was seen to jump from a small aeroplane and parachute 1500 feet to earth at Lowestoft the other day.

Santa Claus had forsaken his reindeer and sledge, and arrived in up-to-date style. Scrambling through the bracken on the cliff-top, he collected the bag of presents which had fallen with him, and made his way to a jeep waiting to take him to a big store in the town.

To welcome the visitor, soldiers stationed in the town had set off a smoke flare to show which way the wind was blowing, and the Carlton Colville Air Scouts took their launch out to sea.

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# THE SAAR ELECTIONS —AND AFTER

By the C.N. Diplomatic Correspondent

**A**NOTHER of the momentous elections in the Saar has come and gone, and the statesmen of Europe are trying to assess the prospects arising from the results of the polls.

The bells of Saarbrücken had not long sounded the first hours of this month when Prime Minister Johannes Hoffman, exhausted by his efforts in a bitter election campaign, staggered into the Parliament building, and announced to the assembled crowds that his Christian People's Party had won a further term of office.

They had secured 41 per cent of the poll, and 29 out of the 50 seats in Parliament, thus ensuring that the Saarlanders of the rich coal and steel territory, about eight times the size of London, would keep their present status.

Lying between France and Germany, the Saar is a self-governing country in economic union with France. Some observers had regarded the elections as almost a trial run for a plebiscite by which the Saarlanders should choose between eventual allegiance either to France or to Germany.

## FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

Herr "Joho" Hoffman, as his Saarlander supporters affectionately call their Prime Minister, was certain that the vote was a vote for a united Europe.

In the first flush of victory he said frankly that he hoped the talks between France and Germany on the final status of the Saar would soon be resumed. "We want a united Europe and a European Saar," he avowed.

Cooler feelings since then, however, suggest that hopes of a speedy agreement were over-optimistic.

Most of the Saarlanders—who conducted themselves at the elections with unexpected calm and a good deal of thoughtfulness—probably think that a European Saar offers the best hopes for the future. It would give them self-rule at home within the European Community, and it would be based on an equal relationship with both France and Germany.

## FRENCH AND GERMAN VIEWS

This answer to a problem which rouses deep feelings in both France and Germany is still the official policy of both countries, although their negotiations on the Saar's future broke down only a few weeks ago.

France then insisted that the Saar's economic union with her must continue even though she was willing to begin to place the Saarlanders on a basis of equality. The German Government on their part wanted to replace this economic union with France by a new arrangement which would give the Saar more independence.

Dr. Adenauer, Chancellor of the German Federal Republic, while pursuing a moderate policy, was strongly pressed at the same time by influential fellow-countrymen who want the Saar to be re-united with Germany.

Despite this welter of conflicting anxieties and efforts to interfere, the Saar Elections seemed to allay

rather than reawaken Franco-German suspicions.

Nevertheless, there are more obstacles to Franco-German agreement on the problem of "Europeanisation" than there were before the Saarlanders voted.

The Germans were angry about the result, because they had expected their propaganda to produce a bigger show of pro-German feeling. The first reaction of some German political parties was to decry the result as a true expression of the people's free will.

## FAILURE OF PROPAGANDA

At first the French were jubilant over the result. They considered it was a clear defeat for the German propaganda campaign. German nationalism, they asserted rather tactlessly, had been unable to stir the enthusiasm of Saarlanders.

What can be said is that the Saarlanders have shown an appreciation of the difficult times in which they live, and have voted for a further chance to decide their future for themselves.

There is no overpowering reason why France and Germany should not agree on the Saar problem. The gap in opinion that was once wide is now much narrower, and at least a settled place by international Statute within the European Community is open to the peoples of the Saar.

## Essex Scouts' H.Q.



The famous mill at Stansted Mountfitchet, built in 1787, is now used by local Boy Scouts as their headquarters.

## WATER DIVINING FROM THE AIR

An aeroplane has been used in Persia by United Nations experts prospecting for water supplies for this arid land. By aerial reconnaissance and photography two years' work of drilling wells and laying pipes has been accomplished in as many months.

Furthermore, aerial photographs could be taken in summer to disclose likely underground sources of water which could only be inferred from the ground during the rainy season.



By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

**W**ORK at Westminster becomes no lighter. Our M.P.s will no doubt be glad to get away for the Christmas recess next week after all the late sittings and other complications of recent weeks.

Why does the House of Commons sit late? In the main it is because the Opposition exert their traditional rights. "The duty of an Opposition is to oppose." But the duty of the Government is to get its business done, and if because of opposition it cannot get it done in time, then it can have recourse to several instruments devised by previous Parliaments and used by previous Governments.

One of these is the suspension of the rule which (except for certain business which falls outside it) sets 10 p.m. as the time limit for Government business. If the rule is suspended by a vote of the House a sitting can go beyond 10 p.m. for as many hours as are necessary. The closure (which ends a debate) and the guillotine (which rations the time for debates on bills) are other measures. Nobody likes them. But there is such a lot to talk about nowadays that they are often used.

**MR. JAMES CARMICHAEL**, a Scottish M.P., said the other day: "I have recognised since I came here six years ago that the people who have been in the main engaged in hard physical work are rarely men in the six-foot class. Those (the six-footers) are the people who have avoided the hard work."

What a splendid subject for an essay this would be! For though there is much in what Mr. Carmichael says, how can this be true of many Irish labourers, who, with splendid physique, must be among the hardest workers in the world?

And, at the other end of the scale, there are many within the acquaintance of this column who have all the leisure in the world but never tire of explaining how ill and fragile they are!

**EGGS:** Can the hon. gentleman say what difficulties now stand in the way of unscrambling the present complicated egg situation?—Lieut.-Col. Lipton, M.P. for Brixton.

**EGGING:** The hon. gentleman is inviting Bannockburn over again by his attitude.—Scottish M.P. to English M.P.

**ARE** you going to be a lawyer?

We commend to you, then, the study of an annual bill recently before Parliament which extends for a year "Subsection (1) of section three of the Emergency Laws (Transitional Provisions) Act, 1946, which, as amended by section four of the Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1947, extends certain provisions of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous War Provisions) Act, 1940, relating to wheat and land drainage."

# News from Everywhere

## NO SEWING

Buttons can be attached to clothes without thread by a machine invented in America. It uses a thermoplastic process.

An American Memorial Library costing five million marks is being built in the Blucherplatz in Berlin as a gift from the people of America.

Lifeboats round Great Britain and Ireland were launched 53 times during November, and rescued 24 people. In the first eleven months of this year they have been launched 603 times—a peacetime record.

## TIMELY PRESENCE

Two men dressed as Santa Claus saved two children from drowning in a frozen canal at Utrecht, Holland.

Helicopters with detachable baskets holding guides and dogs are to be used in Switzerland for mountain rescue work.

A silver table service of 1829 fetched £360 at a recent London auction.

Thor Heyerdahl, leader of the Kon-Tiki voyage, is planning another expedition—this time to the Brazilian jungle.

## TO IMPROVE HANDWRITING

Mr. H. H. Pickard of Headingley, Leeds, has given £100 to endow penmanship prizes at the Leeds Modern School. Mr. Pickard, now 86, left the school in 1884.

## CAT AND DOG LIFE

Recent statistics show that there are five million cats in Britain, and three million dogs.

A library service is to be started for Essex schools. Collections of books from the County Library will be sent to schools and changed periodically.

A 27-year-old Dutchman, Dick Tober, recently completed a 16,000-mile voyage in an eight-ton steel yacht. He set out from Ymuiden, in Holland, and sailed to New Zealand via Cowes, Spain, the West Indies, Panama, the Society Islands, Samoa, and the Tonga Islands.

## BEST SELLER

Over 1,800,000 copies of the new Revised Standard version of the King James Bible were sold in America within the first eight weeks of publication.

Lancashire County Youth Orchestra, founded earlier this year, has given its first public concert. None of the 50 members is over 21.

Canada's Resources Department has formed a research unit which will review Eskimo economy, seeking to promote new industries to give 8500 Northland natives a better living.

An old mine in Cornwall is being worked for uranium. The ore was discovered some years ago, but then cost more to extract than it was worth.

# Boys! Here's your finest Christmas present:



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### Mayflower Pilgrims give thanks

At Princetown, Massachusetts, Town Crier Arthur Snader, in the role of Elder Brewster, leads a group of Pilgrims in a prayer of thanksgiving for their safe voyage from England in the Mayflower. They are re-enacting the Pilgrims' landing on American soil 332 years ago.

### CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

There is a house in Lambeth, London, where the harsh but brave Captain Bligh of the Bounty lived with his wife and children when he was ashore. An L.C.C. commemorative plaque has now been fixed to it.

William Bligh rose to be an admiral and Governor of New South Wales, but he will always be remembered as the martinet commander of the Bounty, whose sailors mutinied and set him and 18 others adrift in a boat only 23 feet long. In this little boat, under the resourceful leadership of their captain, the castaways made a tremendous voyage of more than 3600 miles.

Admiral Bligh was buried in Lambeth in 1817, in the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgin.

### AMERICA'S NEW TREASURER

The signature of Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest will soon be one of the best-known in America, for she has been chosen by Mr. Dwight Eisenhower as Treasurer of the United States. Her name will be printed on all U.S. currency notes.

A native of Utah, Mrs. Priest is the mother of three school-age children. She herself was one of seven children. Her father became ill while she was in college, and she had to leave her studies and go out to work to help support the family.

As Vice-President of the Utah Safety Council she has been particularly active in pressing for safety legislation.

### 64-WHEELER

A 200-ton trailer, claimed to be the largest in Europe, has just been used to carry a gigantic transformer to a new power station in Sweden.

The trailer is 82 feet long, 12 feet 5 inches wide, and has 64 wheels, all fitted with hydraulic brakes.

### A LITTLE BIT OF IRELAND

Records of carol-singing by the pupils of Moneydarragh Primary School, in the heart of the Mourne Mountains, are being flown to Sydney, and will be broadcast on Christmas Day.

## CHAMPION COCOA TREE

There is a certain cocoa tree in Western Samoa that produces 16 times more cocoa than any of the other 250,000 in the plantation.

It seems to be completely immune to disease, and cuttings from it have now been successfully cultivated. This also is a record, for hitherto no one had been able to grow cocoa trees from cuttings in Western Samoa.

When the cuttings are strong enough they will be planted out, and after they have been producing for three or four years it will be possible to take more cuttings from them, so that this cocoa estate will consist of perfect trees.

Western Samoa's average annual cocoa production is already the highest in the world. These islands are administered by New Zealand, under U.N. Trusteeship, and profits from the trust-run agricultural estates are all used for the benefit of the territory. Thus some of the money has been used to build the new Samoa College, the first secondary school there.

Cattle are also reared, and it is hoped to produce enough meat for local needs; but at present Samoans mostly buy tinned meat which they call "Pisupo," because the first tinned food introduced was pea soup.

### OLD CHURCH FOR YOUNG SCOUTS

The condemned 14th-century Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, Norwich, is being converted into a headquarters for Boy Scouts. About £2400 has been spent, and an appeal has been launched for a further £600.

The building in its new guise will contain a kitchen, cloakrooms, and possibly a stage. The nave will be used for Scout training.

In one grave under the chancel of this church lie four knights who fell on Moushold Heath when fighting Robert Kett and his rebels in the reign of Edward the Sixth.

### COLONIAL SHOP WINDOW

Described as the "shop window" of British Honduras, the Stann Creek Valley is the scene of an experiment devised to bring added prosperity to this British Colony in the Caribbean. Orange trees have been planted on 1500 acres of newly-cleared land and a big new plant is now being established for the production of fruit juices.

Elsewhere in British Honduras banana plantations are beginning to yield fruit, and shipments are being made regularly to the British people, who have provided the funds for most of these development schemes.

### IVORY THRONE OF 3500 YEARS OLD

Though the French no longer administer Syria their scholars still interest themselves in its past.

Professor Claude Schaeffer has recently announced in Damascus the discovery by French experts of the 3500-year-old ivory throne of the Phoenician kings of Ugarit, and of plaster tablets in the Ugaritic and Akkadian language dating back to 2000 B.C.

Ugarit, a capital of the old Phoenician Empire, is on the Mediterranean, north of Latakia.

### GLASS COAT FOR HOT STEEL

Glass has proved better than any other material for lubricating hot steel billets emerging from a furnace and passing onto a machine to be drawn out into various shapes.

The glass is applied in the form of glass mats which, when wrapped around the hot billet, melt and provide the metal with a glass coat. Besides lubricating the metal, the glass also insulates the drawing tools from the heat of the billet and reduces wear.

### MORE PAPER

Experts of the United Nations plan to produce paper in larger quantities in the Philippines. It will be made from a blend of the Benguet pine with Manila hemp, rice straw, sugar cane waste, bamboo, and cogon grass.

A Norwegian expert, Mr. Per Klem, claims that this industry could supply not only enough paper to satisfy the needs of the Philippines, but also contribute towards the growing demand from other countries in South-East Asia.

### PICTURES IN THE SKY

A society to project pictures on the clouds has been formed in Copenhagen. It will do this with what may be termed the world's biggest magic lantern, 30 feet long and with a lens (of plastic) two feet in diameter. It is capable of throwing a picture to a height of 3000 feet and covering an area of 30,000 square feet.

### TOOTHPICK TOWER

A ten-foot-high scale model of the Eiffel Tower has been made entirely from toothpicks and glue by a man in California. He used some 50,000 toothpicks.

DR.

## BARNARDO'S HOMES

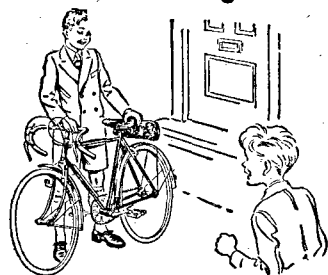
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### Preparing for pantomime

Mr. John Lee is here seen at work in his London studio painting masks and head-dresses which are used in pantomime. Some are treated with fluorescent paint, which gives them an effect even more eerie.





### Sports pavilion as memorial

Girls of the netball team at Bush Elms Secondary School running from the sports pavilion built by the boys at the school. It has been dedicated as memorial to members of the staff and old boys who were killed in the war.

## CHILDREN! Christmas Gift Books by your favourite writers...



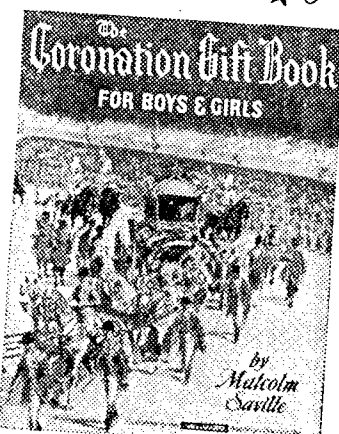
Of all the lovely books Enid Blyton has written for you, this story—of her own wonderful life—will become one of your greatest favourites. Here are stories of Enid Blyton's schooldays, of her pets, her garden, her hobbies and how she writes the books that spread happiness among countless boys and girls all over the world. 128 big pages with 87 photos—many from Miss Blyton's own albums. "The Story of My Life," by Enid Blyton, will be one of this year's most treasured Christmas gifts. **10/6**

Thousands upon thousands of boys and girls are going to have their happiest Christmas ever with these very special books. They are absolutely "wizd"! **10/6**

In the "Daily Graphic Coronation Gift Book," Malcolm Saville tells the thrilling story of the Coronation pageantry. He tells you, too, all about the glorious ritual of the Coronation ceremony and of those who, by ancient claim or by duty, will take part in the crowning of Queen Elizabeth II. 80 big pages with 7 Colour Plates and 32 pages of photographs, many drawings and maps. This grand Gift Book will be on sale Saturday next—the demand will be enormous. **8/6**

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PITKINS, 9 NORTHINGTON STREET, LONDON, W.C.1



## In the Air

By the C N Flying Correspondent

### Flying trailer

DESIGNED to speed loading and delivery of supplies to armies in the field, a new American trailer can be either used on the road or be attached to an aircraft to form a giant freight hold.

On the road it can be towed behind a light truck; in the air it forms the ventral "pack" of the big Fairchild XC-120 Pack Plane. Airborne, it flies with its doors locked partially open, thus converting it from a huge box into a streamlined "fuselage."

### Pilots "blown-up"

TRAINEE jet pilots in the R.A.F. are being taught how to abandon their aircraft in flight—but the training is done on the ground.

To get them used to their ejector seats in an emergency, they are being fired up mobile 48-foot training towers mounted on huge "Queen Mary" trailers. The equipment consists of a standard ejector-seat fitted to the tower on guide rails and fired up it by an explosive cartridge. The seat is stopped before it reaches the top and the pilot and seat are lowered by a pulley.

### Helicopters galore

THE U.S. Army and Navy have affirmed their faith in the helicopter by ordering more than 4000 of them—in assorted shapes and sizes—for delivery in 1953-54. The bill will come to more than £66,000,000.

The smallest hoverplane on order is the Jet-Jeep, a one-man observation plane. It can be carried on a jeep trailer and can use the same fuel and tool kit. Power is provided by two pulsejets at the rotor tips.

### Thin wing jet

AVIONS Hurel Dubois, well known for their aircraft with super-thin wings, have entered a proposed jet airliner in a contest organised by the French Government.

This contest will enable the authorities to pick an airliner suitable for their European and Mediterranean services.

The suggested Hurel Dubois airliner is the HD-45. Seating 80 passengers, it has a long, cigar-shaped fuselage, a high, thin wing, and is powered by twin turbojets, mounted on the wing struts.

### Swift and Hunter

THE Secretary of State for Air, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, V.C., has announced that the first squadrons of Vickers Supermarine Swifts will be in service by next June, and that Hunters should not be far behind.

### Airborne Santa Claus

AMERICAN troops at Mildenhall are giving an enormous Christmas party to British children living nearby. The climax will be the arrival of Santa Claus in a U.S. Air Force helicopter.

## NEW CHIMPS FOR ZOO TEA PARTY

By Craven Hill, C N Correspondent at London Zoo

Zoo officials making plans for next year's Chimps' Tea Party think they now have their arrangements complete.

A new quartet will be trained, the former animals being too old, but two chimps now in the Gardens—two-year-old Fifi and 14-month-old Wendy—are already earmarked for the party, and two more are coming shortly from the British Cameroons. They were caught by native hunters and are being sent to London by Dr. J. P. F. Hummel of Lagos.

"Only one thing is causing delay—an export licence," Mr. George Cansdale, the Zoo superintendent, tells me. "Chimpanzees cannot be sent over here without permission from the local Government. But that may soon be forthcoming."

"We hope so, anyway, because there will not be too much time to train the animals for the party. Training these young apes takes several months, and is the special work of Headkeeper Laurie Smith and his colleagues."

"It already seems certain that the party will have a female chairman. She is Fifi, who is an unusually clever animal and already knows the meaning of many words."

Talking of Fifi, her latest prank is certainly causing much laughter. Every day this amiable and amusing little ape is visited and petted by scores of folk, and just recently she has discovered that some of them wear sock suspenders.

Now her greatest joy is to hitch up the trouser-ends of any male interviewer to see if there are suspenders on his legs. If she finds them, she grips the elastic and pulls hard until it either breaks or snaps back upon the victim's calf!

At times she gets away with the whole suspender, which amuses her for hours.

SOME very interesting animal nurseries are being planned in the Gardens for Coronation Year, and it is plain that when spring comes round there will be a

marked rise in the menagerie's birth-rate, with lots of new babies waiting to entertain the public.

Among the first youngsters expected in the New Year are cubs for Minnie and Pickles, the brown bears on the Mappin Terraces. For the past 13 years Minnie has had either twins or triplets every January except two.

As a rule twins and triplets came alternately, and as there were twin cubs last January, officials expect Minnie's 1953 addition to the menagerie to be triplets again—and three baby brown bears should amuse young visitors, for they are such natural comedians.

ANOTHER important birth impending is a fawn for the Indian spotted deer, Henry and Ginger, at the cattle sheds.

This pair are amazingly different in temperament. Henry, who came from India in 1946, is so friendly that visitors can safely stroke him at all seasons.

His partner, on the other hand, is so timid that, in the words of Headkeeper Pullen, "no one can ever get near her."

LET me close this week with a word of warning. When visiting the Zoo on a windy day, be sure to hold on to your hat.

I say this because the other day a schoolgirl, wearing a smart new beret, was bending over the parapet to watch Brumas when a gust blew her headgear into the enclosure.

Ever on the watch for new playthings, Brumas pounced upon the beret, used it as a mop for wiping the rocks, and finally tore it to bits before keepers could rescue it!

### THE HELPING BEAK

Instead of immediately eating crumbs thrown to them, several pigeons in a Barcelona park were seen to carry them to a collapsed building. Later it was discovered that they were feeding five pigeons trapped under the debris.

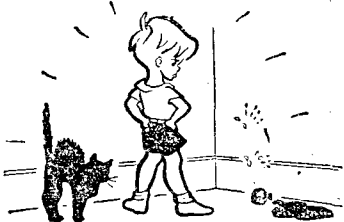


### One of the Queen's young men

A C N reader, six-year-old Brian Grayes of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, has won many prizes at carnivals as a Guards bandsman on his drum horse. A photograph of him (left) is compared with a picture of a mounted drummer of the Life Guards which appeared in the C N not long ago.



The Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1952



When I am bad and won't do as I should  
I go to Change Corner to get made good.

From *The Five to Seven Treasure Book* (Blandford Press, 7s. 6d.)

### MYSTERY IN A LAKE

*The Dark Island*, by Anne Barrett (Collins, 8s. 6d.)

LOOKING across the lake from their window on the first evening of their holidays in Ireland, young Charles and Kate noticed one island that seemed larger and darker than the others. When they asked the Irish maid, Bridie, about it she hastily drew the curtains.

"There's things that isn't good to see," she said quietly, and left them.

After that, of course, Charles and Kate had to investigate, and their adventures make a first-class mystery yarn.

### NEW THEMES—OLD SETTING

*The Bridal Gown*, by Diana Ross (Faber and Faber, 10s. 6d.)

To write a fairy-tale convincingly in the traditional style but with original ideas, is not so easy as it sounds. Diana Ross has succeeded admirably in this collection of stories. Those who like to read of witches, handsome princes, beautiful maidens, and strange magic happenings, will find much to fascinate them in this charmingly illustrated book.



One of the drawings from *Highland Bumble*, written and illustrated by Magdalen Eldon (Collins, 7s. 6d.)



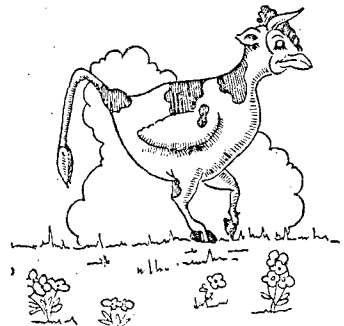
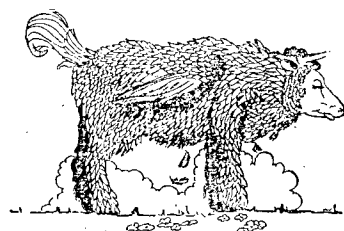
This drawing of eagles preparing to attack is from *Ray of the Rainbows*, by Mortimer Batten, illustrated by G. Vernon Stokes (Hollis and Carter, 16s.). It is a thrilling story of a boy who lived among the animals in the forests of Canada.

# Christmas Bookshelf

## HUT MAN AT HOME

*Exploring the Hut Country*, by G. D. Fisher (W. & R. Chambers, 8s. 6d.)

As the title indicates, the author is The Hut Man of the BBC Children's Hour and the C.N. Betty and Michael have a fascinating time exploring the countryside with their expert guide—not to mention Mowgli, the spaniel. These pages are packed with delightful country lore, and many young nature-lovers will feel envious of Betty and Michael.



Alderney Cow and Speckled Hen change clothes. From *Alice in Starland*, by Fay McGregor (W. Foulsham and Co., 7s. 6d.) The illustrations are by John Tenniel, great-nephew of the famous artist who first pictured Alice in Wonderland.

## YOUNG SAILORS ASHORE

*A Mountain of Gold*, by Adrian Seligman (Hodder and Stoughton, 9s. 6d.)

MORE old friends beckon us to excitement in this book by a sailor of whom it is said: "He knows the sea and he knows children." The youthful crew of Brumes de l'Aube, the youngsters in his earlier books, now turn inland to the Spanish mountains, where their friend Marek, the secret agent, is in trouble.



Toto and Mandy ride off on the back of Figs—one of the many drawings in *The Helen Haywood Christmas Book* (Hutchinson, 7s. 6d.)

## PRODUCING THE SHOW

*Play Production for Amateurs*, by Eric Bradwell (Allen and Unwin, 10s. 6d.)

ALL who take part in amateur plays know from experience how much depends on the producers, however good the piece or talented the actors. This book is one of the most comprehensive yet written on the art of producing plays by amateurs. It is by an expert from New Zealand, a country where there is practically no professional drama.

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

*Moon Ahead!* by Leslie Greener (The Bodley Head, 9s. 6d.)

BY far the safest and most comfortable way of travelling to the Moon is in a fireside chair with this book. There we can share all the excitement that befalls the intrepid space-travellers, and find ourselves convinced that Earth's satellite will one day be explored.



The two merboys go fishing with Paddy Rory—one of the delightful illustrations by Shirley Hughes for *The Marvellous Merlad*, by Judith Masefield (Collins, 8s. 6d.) Miss Masefield is the daughter of the Poet Laureate, and this is her first book.



One of Iris Gillespie's many delightful illustrations for *Fedora the Donkey*, by Kathleen Fidler (Lutterworth, 8s. 6d.) A story of a donkey who set out to see the world and found much excitement before returning to his beach.

## FANTASTIC FUN

*So Hi and the White Horse of Fu*, by Cynon Beaton-Jones (James Barrie, 8s. 6d.)

HERE we meet again Dripoff, the lovable dragon, and his boy friend, So Hi. This time they get mixed up with a magic horse that has only to tap its hoof three times to grant anyone a wish. This delightfully funny story has been read twice by the BBC in response to requests from thousands of children all over Britain.



Muffin the Mule and Peregrine the Penguin prepare to set up the First Aid Post. From *Here Comes Muffin*, by Annette Mills, and illustrated by Molly Blake (University of London Press, 7s. 6d.)

## YOUNG ADVENTURERS

*Alarms and Excursions*, by F. Douglas (Faber & Faber, 9s. 6d.)

SUCH excursions may well have caused some alarm to the parents of three little Londoners, for Nicholas is only eleven-and-a-half (as good as 12, he claims) while his cousins Pippy and Jake are even younger.

But needless to say they are not too young to become involved in a remarkable series of adventures, and Nicholas relates them in delightful style.

## FAIRY KINGDOM

*Prince Curly*, by Anthony A. Nye (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.)

ACROSS the great Ocean of Imagination lies the Land of Grinsmiles, ruled over by King Fuzzlehead the Fifty-First and Queen Teardrops. It is a land where anything can happen, as mortal schoolboy Curly Higgins soon discovered when he arrived there in fine style one day with his sister Pam.

The story of their adventures is a delightful fantasy, told in lively fashion by a young author who, like pantomime producers, is well aware that young children like fun even more than they like fairies.

## Also Recommended

THE SKY AND ITS MYSTERIES, by E. Agar Beet (Bell, 15s.)

RUPERT OF THE RHINE, by Bernard Fergusson—Brief Lives Series (Collins, 7s. 6d.)

JUNIOR BIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY, by H. V. Morsley (Epworth Press, 6s. 6d.)

AEROMODELLER ANNUAL 1952, compiled by D. L. Laidlaw-Dickson (Model Aeronautical Press, 10s.)

THE RAILWAY BUILDERS, by Emmeline Garnett (Collins, 12s. 6d.)

SEA-EAGLE, and other tales of the Wild, by Raphael Nelson (Epworth Press, 5s.)

BOOK OF SPORT FOR BOYS 1953, by Raymond Glendenning (Sportsguide Publications, 10s. 6d.)

BBC CHILDREN'S HOUR ANNUAL, edited by May E. Jenkin (Burke Publishing Co., 9s. 6d.)

LISTENING TO MUSIC, by Roger Fiske (Harrap, 8s. 6d.)

## For Younger Readers

THE BROWNIE'S MAGIC, by Enid Blyton (Macmillan, 6s. 6d.)

WOODLAND BABIES and PUPPY TALES (Collins, 1s. 6d. each)

THREE JOLLY FISHERMEN and THREE JOLLY CLOWNS, written and pictured by CAM (Collins, 6s. each.)

HARE AND THE EASTER EGGS, by Alison Uttley (Collins, 4s.)

A CHILD'S BOOK OF DOGS, by Luis M. Henderson (Publicity Products, 2s.)

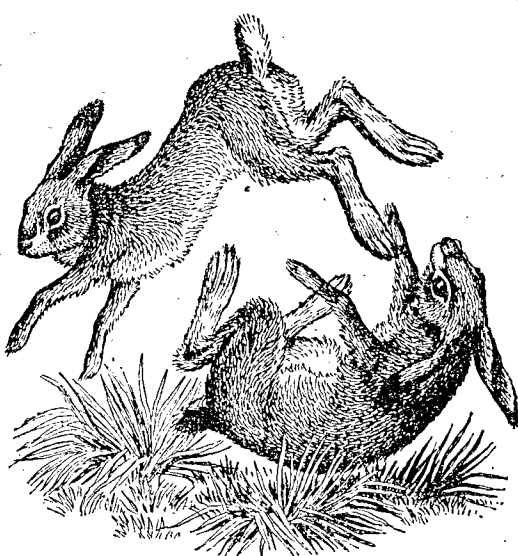
THE LITTLE HORSE BUS, by Graham Green, with illustrations by Dorothy Craigie (Parrish, 8s. 6d.)

THE TIRED TRAIN and other stories, by Leila Berg and illustrated by Jean Bailey (Parrish, 6s.)

PRUDENCE KITTEN, by Annette Mills and George Fry (University of London Press, 4s. 6d.)

JOHN AND JENNIFER GO TRAVELLING, by Gee Denes (Nelson, 6s.)

COWBOYS, and INDIANS, by E. Joseph Dreany—Pop-up Action books (Publicity Products, 5s. each)



Hares at play, by James Lucas—an illustration from Enid Blyton's *Animal Lover's Book* (Evans, 16s.)



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · E.C.4  
DECEMBER 20 . . . . . 1952

## THE RIGHT ANSWER

MR. ANTHONY EDEN said some wise words to Britons and Americans the other day when he warned both nations that "the answer to Communism is not abuse but to be a more successful civilisation for peoples of every section to live in."

It is all too easy to condemn what we see to be wrong in false doctrines, but condemnation is not enough; they must be challenged, and the most effective challenge is to produce something finer and better.

As Mr. Eden graphically expressed it: "We have to fight the torture of the human mind and body which is going on behind the Iron Curtain with the kind of freedom and the tolerance and understanding which is what the free world means."

The best way of waging the fight, in Mr. Eden's view, is to prepare "constructive plans for the world" in which the English-speaking peoples will whole-heartedly co-operate with all other free nations. They must be torchbearers, spreading light in dark places by demonstrating that the good and the true work for mankind more effectively than the evil and the false.

We have not only to believe in what is right; we have to make the right work in everyday affairs.

## HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

THE largest sum ever granted by the Pilgrim Trust—no less than £100,000—is to be devoted to the preservation of Britain's beautiful old churches.

Hands Across the Sea is a well-worn phrase, but here is a glorious example of its meaning. This land is a treasury of noble churches, hallowed by centuries of prayer, and of the utmost historic interest. But the cost of keeping them in repair has become an acute problem, and £4,000,000 will be required in the next ten years to save them from ruin.

This princely contribution to the formidable total, from a source that had its origin across the Atlantic, forges yet another link between the English-speaking peoples.

But let us all look to our own responsibilities. Lord Chancellor Simonds has pointed out that if Britain's eight million families were each to give a shilling a year for ten years the problem of repairing our churches would be solved.

## America to Britain

Though ages long have passed Since our fathers left their home,  
Their pilot in the blast,  
O'er untravelled seas to roam,  
Yet lives the blood of England  
In our veins!

And shall we not proclaim  
That blood of honest fame,  
Which no tyranny can tame  
By its chains?  
While the manners, while the arts,

That mould a nation's soul,  
Still cling around our hearts,  
Between let ocean roll,  
Our joint communion breaking  
with the sun:

Yet, still, from either beach  
The voice of blood shall reach  
More audible than speech,  
"We are one!"

Washington Allston

# The Editor's Table

## Birds in the winter

MANY of the bird friends we like to see in our gardens turn to us for help when Jack Frost binds the earth.

During a hard winter kindly folk save many of them by putting out food and water.

Hints on the best ways of doing this can be obtained from The British Federation of Animal Welfare Societies, Room "C," Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, W.1.

## Toward the stars



A new mosaic floor at the National Gallery is being laid by Mr. Boris Anrep in marble of fifty different colours. One of the panels shows astronomer Fred Hoyle as a stegophilist (steepie addict), striving to reach the heavens.

## When the weather defies the weather man

WHAT a sensation there would be if a BBC announcer were to say: "We have no idea what the weather will be for the next 24 hours!"

Yet the cat was let out of the meteorological bag recently by Sir David Brunt, F.R.S., who said there is one fact that the forecaster never tells the public: that there are occasions when he does not know what the weather will be.

"The atmosphere is so extremely complicated," explained Sir David, "that in spite of many mathematicians having taken it up, there has not yet been any rule developed that would be universally applicable."

We can readily believe that our climate is sometimes too complicated even for an expert; so he should not be judged too harshly if occasionally he has failed to predict the queer mixture that turns up.

## GOOD FELLOW

One of the animals which a generous and sociable man would soonest become is a dog. A dog can have a friend; he has affections and character, he can enjoy equally the field and the fireside; he dreams, he caresses, he propitiates; he offends, and is pardoned; he stands by you in adversity; he is a good fellow.

Leigh Hunt

## SIX COUNTRIES IN AGREEMENT

WE hear so much about countries disagreeing that it is refreshing to hear of some that are in agreement.

The shining lights are Britain, the United States, France, Holland, Australia, and New Zealand which jointly govern different islands in the South Pacific Ocean and work together through an organisation called the South Pacific Commission.

At a conference in Sydney, the Secretary of the Commission, Sir Brian Freeston, has congratulated these six countries on the fact that their decisions were always unanimous and that they never had any political quarrels when discussing the welfare of the peoples of the South Pacific.

## Cure for doodling

THE Post Office authorities, about to introduce a new type of telephone kiosk in the Middlesbrough area, were worried lest doodlers should spoil the walls.

They consulted a psychologist, and he advised them to put a mirror in every phone box. The advice was taken, and it was soon found to be effective.

It would seem that, given a chance of reflection, doodlers forget to doodle.

## Thirty Years Ago

THE enterprising Swiss Air Office is trying to arrange with European countries a huge international air service, one of the principal routes suggested being from Copenhagen to Brindisi.

The flight would thus begin in Denmark, go through Germany, and Switzerland, and end up in the very south of Italy, a distance by rail of nearly 1800 miles. The flight of a passenger aeroplane would take 29 hours, against the 68 hours of the big trans-European express trains.

The journey would be broken at the Alps, which passengers would cross by train.

From the Children's Newspaper, December 23, 1922

## THINGS SAID

CHARACTER is rather like a banking account—you can draw on it, but not overdraw it.  
Judge H. L. Beazley

LOYALTIES are good, but it is important to get them right.  
Archbishop of Canterbury

WE are proud that whereas almost every commodity or service has doubled or trebled its charges since 1940, our postage remains at 2½d.  
Postmaster-General

TWO ingredients are essential to consolidate the gains made during 1952. One is confidence and the other is faith.

Mr. S. G. Holland,  
New Zealand's Premier

WITHOUT Spartan discipline we will lose the spirit of adventure which has contributed so much to the building of the Empire.

Rev. J. H. Bury, Headmaster of  
Ranelagh School, Bracknell

## IN THE COUNTRY

IN winter the country-lover may sometimes wonder whether there is even greater joy in returning home than in setting forth. Perhaps the beauty and quiet of the late December afternoon has tempted the rambler to extend a tramp across the fields until the low sun is sinking behind the woods, and suddenly the air grows chilly.

The rooks, after much commotion, have retreated to their roosting trees, the pheasant has sought his favourite bough, the blackbirds have retired into the covert, and now only the robin is "tick-ticking" in the naked hedgerow.

From a slight rise in the path the rambler looks down upon the lights appearing one by one in the village. The sight suggests one of the great pleasures of winter—a fire-lit room, with curtains drawn to shut out the cold and the gloom of the night. Here is joy indeed after a country walk when the air has a "nip of frost in it."

## JUST AN IDEA

As H. Ward Beecher wrote: When there is love in the heart, there are rainbows in the eyes, which cover every black cloud with gorgeous hues.

## Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO  
KNOW

If musicians  
give them-  
selves airs

A girl says her watch has travelled round the world with her. Goes wherever she goes.

Electricity is a boon to village communities. Yet they make light of it.

Some boys have formed a band with tin cans and wooden spoons. Ought to make stirring music.

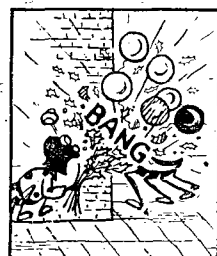
Cockneys are said to have the greatest sense of humour in the world. Capital companions.



Ten thousand cups a year are lost from railway refreshment rooms. Have gone to "join the flying saucers."

A school of porpoises has been seen at Bexhill. Evidently on a school outing.

BILLY BEETLE



## OUR HOMELAND

The village of Dedham, in the valley of the Stour, Essex



The Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1952

# ATOMIC FUN BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

By Eric Gillett, the CN Film Critic



George Potts (played by George Cole) meets the interpreter (Nadia Gray) on his arrival at the Russian atomic centre near Moscow

**TOP SECRET** is a gay and diverting film made by the team responsible for *Laughter in Paradise*. Mario Zampi has produced and directed it; Jack Davis and Michael Pertwee have written the script.

George Cole, who did so well in *Who Goes There?* and several other pictures, has the leading part in this one as George Potts, a sanitary engineer at the Barworth Atomic Research Centre. He is leaving for a holiday, taking with him in his brief case his plans for the new men's ablutions room.

At the same moment Professor Layton, the famous atomic expert, falls to the ground, ill. In the confusion Potts goes away with Layton's brief case, and eventually finds himself in Moscow, the honoured guest of the Soviet.

## SPOT OF BOTHER

The events that bring him there are extraordinarily funny, and the people involved in them are some of the most capable British film actors. Wilfrid Hyde White is the Minister of Defence who finds himself in a spot of bother when the vitally important plans are lost, and Geoffrey Sumner is a dapper Major sent to look for them.

Frederick Leister is the Prime Minister who telephones the order to "Seal Britain!" before the plans leave the country. Oscar Homolka is the genial Russian who first makes contact with Potts, and in the end is only too glad to cross with him into the British zone of Berlin, in order to save his own skin.

## GOOD DIALOGUE

It is a pleasure to see a film which has a really amusing idea and some most effective dialogue. George Cole makes a good job of the simple-minded Potts, who finds himself involved in unimaginable adventures, and has not the slightest idea for some days what all the trouble is about.

Nadia Gray is the pleasant young woman who is told to look after Potts in Moscow and begins by disliking him intensely because she believes him to be a traitor to his country.

*Top Secret* sets a cracking pace from the beginning, and if it does not quite maintain it to the very

end, it provides another example of British film comedy likely to amuse audiences in many parts of the world.

**SOMEBODY LOVES ME**, made in very glossy Technicolor, gives Betty Hutton a chance to be her dynamic self and to sing an extraordinarily large number of songs.

The story concerns a pair of vaudeville artists whose mutual jealousy interferes with their work. It is not important. Neither is the rest of the cast. It is a case of Betty Hutton first and the rest nowhere.

**ONE** of the most interesting of recent cinema events is the revival of the late D. W. Griffiths' famous film, *The Birth of a Nation*.

It appeared first in 1915, when it took nearly two-and-three-quarter hours to show. Now it seems to have been cut and a sound track of music and incidental noises has been added, though the film remains speechless.

*The Birth of a Nation* was the first film to tackle on a big scale a really important subject—the American Civil War, and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Among the cast were Lillian Gish, Mae Marsh, and Henry B. Walthall.

Photography today is 37 years better than it was then, and it will be surprising if you see *The Birth of a Nation* today without laughing more than once in the wrong place. This revival will appeal more strongly to the student of films than to the ordinary cinema audience.

## GREEK OLIVE TREE FOR DELHI

Trees are being given by many nations for planting in a park at Delhi as a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. Greece, for instance, is sending a slender olive tree taken from the Academy of Plato in Athens.

Some 2300 years separate Plato and Gandhi, but the Indian had qualities of imagination and moral enthusiasm similar to those that marked the teacher amid the olive groves of ancient Athens

# India's Fine New City

On a vast site covering 10,000 acres, north of Delhi, India is building a new city.

Bulldozers and earth-shifters are now busy scooping out the foundations of a dazzling city whose spaciousness and dignity will be in keeping with its destiny, for it is to be named Chandigarh, and will replace ancient Lahore as the capital of the Punjab. When the line between India and Pakistan was drawn, Lahore went to Pakistan.

A group of famous architects from America, France, and Britain were called in to work with Indian architects in building a city the like of which has never been seen in any continent.

The whole of Chandigarh on the plan has been divided into 15 sectors, each measuring three-quarters of a mile by half a mile. Each sector will be self-contained, with its own schools, playground, park, club, cinema, and shops.

## SAFETY PLANS

No housewife will have to cross a major road to get to the shops, and no child will cross traffic while going to school.

Every sector is sub-divided into communities of 800 people in 150 houses—just about the size of a Punjab village. So the inhabitants, though living in a big city, will enjoy the close, friendly life of a village.

Down the middle of each sector will run a park, with the business centre opening off it. The hospitals, the libraries, the theatre, and the colleges have their special area, and the assembly chamber and offices of government are also grouped together.

Although the city is big, it is a pedestrians' city, and no one will have a longer walk than a quarter of an hour to get to the main points of city life.

Chandigarh will be a city with a personality. It will combine the best features of east and west, and in five years' time about half-a-million people will be living in this lovely city of "sun, space, and silence," which is the ideal of its chief planner, M. le Corbusier, the famous French architect.

## FOR A FRIEND

**AN** ideal Christmas present for a friend across the seas—one that lasts for a whole year—can be had for 17s. 4d. For this sum *Children's Newspaper* will be sent every week for a year to any address overseas.

For 19s. 6d. it will be sent every week to any address in the United Kingdom.

**PLEASE** send your remittance, together with full name and address (in block capitals) of the friend to whom the CN is to be sent, to *Subscription Department, Children's Newspaper, The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4*, and we will do the rest.

**IF** desired, a special greetings card bearing your own name and address will be sent with the first copy.

# SISTER GREATHEART KENNY

The story of Sister Kenny is a 20th-century epic. It is the story of a woman who turned her back on the chance of happiness that comes to most women in order to devote herself to the fight against infantile paralysis.

Sister Kenny died recently at the age of 66 after a long struggle to persuade the world's doctors that her methods of treating the disease could be successful. In the end her doggedness won the day, and she was able to say: "My work is finished."

Elizabeth Kenny was an Australian, and it was in Queensland, when she was only 23, that she saw her first case of the disease which she was to fight all her days. Seeing a ten-year-old girl lying in pain with her knees drawn up, she telegraphed a doctor for advice, and received the reply: "Infantile paralysis—no known treatment."

From that moment she resolved to find one. She knew that warmth can relax tensed muscles, so she steeped a blanket in hot water and applied it to the young sufferer's muscles and gave her relief.

In the end that girl was able to walk again—thanks to the healing hands of Elizabeth Kenny, and her refusal to accept defeat.

Elizabeth Kenny became a nurse soon afterwards, and worked out her own methods of curing infantile paralysis, or polio. She was convinced that if they were used early enough they would result in complete cure.

Like so many pioneers, she met with indifference and opposition. But she battled on and in 1935 a clinic was opened in Sydney for treating the dread disease in her way.

She won many doctors over to her side and an Elizabeth Kenny Foundation was also established in the U.S.—at Minneapolis. Now there are 40 clinics in various parts of the world, all following her methods.

Sister Kenny renounced all chances of a happy home life, with children of her own, because she believed it would interfere with her life's mission. Her great heart belonged to thousands of crippled children throughout the world.

# ALL LANCASHIRE IN AN INDEX

Plans to compile an index to Lancashire history have been drawn up by a committee under Professor G. Barraclough of Liverpool University.

This master index, which may take five years to complete, will guide students to information on every aspect of Lancashire local history. It will contain lists of

thousands of published works on the county, from the histories of small villages to those of the great estates.

Liverpool, Manchester, and many other cities and towns, of course, possess considerable local collections. All will be thoroughly investigated and duly recorded in this super index.

# Good value for a penny

The Coram's Fields Playgrounds in London have planned a series of painting classes for children of all ages. The charge is one penny, and brushes, crayons, and paints are provided. The two young artists-to-be on the right seem to be wondering just what to paint next. Also for a penny, children can attend concerts to hear classical music played and sung. Below, Miss Joy Walker-Robson is playing the cello to an attentive audience.





## JACOBITE'S HOME FOR THE NATION

The National Trust now has in its keeping a beautiful old Yorkshire manor house which was once the home of a prominent Jacobite.

It is Nunnington Hall, about 20 miles north of York—a charming picture of gabled walls, mullioned windows, and clustered chimneys, serene amid smooth lawns and noble trees. In the days of William and Mary it belonged to Sir Richard Graham, Viscount Preston, who nearly lost his life for plotting to restore the Stuarts.

He was arrested in May 1689, a few months after James II had fled the country, and was sentenced to death. He was, however, told his life would be spared if he made a full confession of the plot.

It is said that while imprisoned in the Tower he wrote a confession regularly every morning and burned it the same evening after dinner; but eventually he weakened and told the full story.

Towards the end of 1691 he was finally released, and to Nunnington Hall he repaired, occupying his last few years in revising his translation of a book by Boethius.

He was buried in Nunnington Church, and near him rests his brother-in-law, William Widdrington, another Jacobite who thought discretion the better part of valour. He escaped execution after the 1715 rebellion by claiming that he had been the last to take up arms and the first to put them down!

## MINIATURE PONIES

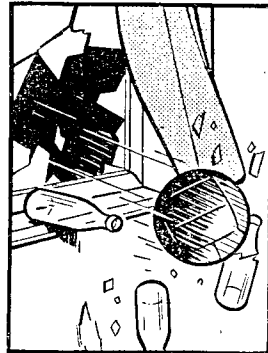
Four miniature Shetland ponies, about the size of St. Bernard dogs, arrived recently at Los Angeles from Britain. These curious little ponies are bred by Lady Estella Hope, daughter of the Earl of Hopetoun, on her farm at Bodiam, Sussex, and are well known in Britain. They proved a surprise, however, to America's boys and girls when they saw them on T.V.

The "hobby-horses," as they have been nicknamed in America, reach an average height of 32 inches and live for about 21 years.

## Steps to Sporting Fame



Year after year the F.A. Cup competition spotlights little-known clubs who defeat the famous. Such a club is Bath City, managed by Edris Hapgood.



Born at Bristol, Eddie did not play much football at school, but he recalls a game in the street when he broke a window and three milk bottles with a lusty kick. Later, after refusing Bristol Rovers, he signed for Kettering.



After only 12 matches, he was transferred to Arsenal, where he trained very seriously, usually alone. One of his ideas was to kick a ball high up the terracing, and position himself to bring it under control.



Eddie Hapgood won two Cup medals and five League Championship honours. But his greatest honour was to captain England from 1934 to 1943. He took part in 43 international matches, playing for England in 14 countries.

## OURSELVES IN FIGURES

From the new issue of a Government publication with a formidable title, Annual Abstract of Statistics, we have gleaned these interesting figures concerning Britain in 1951.

Britons spent £2867,000,000 on food; £1046,000,000 on clothing; £801,000,000 on tobacco; £788,000,000 on alcoholic drink; £181,000,000 on entertainments, and £150,000,000 on books, newspapers, and magazines. They also spent £224,000,000 on private motoring as against £127,000,000 in 1938.

They held 764,000 television licences, compared with 344,000 the year before. Radio licences dropped from 11,876,000 to 11,605,000.

There were 4570 cinemas last year, 27 fewer than in 1950.

Britain had 714,788 shops, of which nearly a quarter were grocers' and dairies.

The total of catering establishments—hotels, restaurants, tea-shops, cafés, and canteens—was 226,400, and the number of meals provided by them every week was 227 million.

There were 1247 professors compared with 889 in 1938, and 102,012 university students compared with 63,420 before the war.

British civil air services carried 1,411,000 passengers, against 219,000 just before the war.

The population of Great Britain was 50,212,000. The birth-total of 818,000 was lower than those recorded in the '70s of last century, when the population was about half as big.

## ROOF BUILT FIRST

Two new aircraft hangars at Marseilles have arched, reinforced concrete roofs 328 feet wide and 200 feet long, and the roofs were actually made first.

When properly set they were jacked up to the required height, and the end and two side walls then completed. Each roof rests on rollers to allow for expansion and contraction of the material.

## RADIO DOCTORS SERVE SHIPS AND PLANES

Italy announced not long ago that she had opened the world's first medical service by radio for aircraft passengers taken ill while flying over that country.

In this country, however, Post Office wireless stations which are situated at eleven points round the coast of the British Isles have operated for some years a free medical service to ships at sea that do not carry doctors. Although it is known officially as Medical Advice to Ships at Sea, aircraft can and do make use of it, so Britain was really the first country to give this valuable service.

Minor ailments and accidents among the ship's company are generally dealt with by the captain—with the aid of his medical chest—but there may occur cases of serious illness demanding skilled attention or even requiring an operation. Then the captain sends a radio message to the nearest coast station. Last year these stations handled nearly 500 messages.

In the International Code of Signals which all ships must carry there are over 1000 radio signals, each in groups of five letters, which the captain can use to report the

description and age of his patient, pulse rate, temperature, breathing, symptoms, and all the other details a doctor would obtain if he visited the sick person himself.

The coast stations, and the hospitals and doctors on the consultant list, also have a copy of the signals and can send back advice. It does not matter what language the captain speaks; the signal code covers them all.

### ADVICE FROM THE SISTER

One particularly interesting case recently was that of a trawler deck-hand whose leg had been severed when his ship was 100 miles east of Aberdeen. The captain did what he could, and then grabbed his Signal Code and called for assistance from Wick Radio. He was immediately put into direct touch by radiotelephone with the Sister of the Casualty Ward of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

While the fishing trawler was racing to port, the skipper successfully followed the instructions, administering morphia and adjusting a tourniquet, doing exactly what he was being told by that Sister across the intervening sea.

All our radio coast stations maintain a watch continuously, 24 hours every day, on the international distress wavelengths. They work to ships up to 300 miles out at sea; over that distance the great station at Burnham-on-Sea takes over.

One of the most interesting of the distress stories in the records at Burnham is that of the rescue of four American airmen who had been forced down after a flight over the South Pole. The men vanished and no one knew where they had crashed.

The research ship Discovery returning from Antarctic waters was sent back to make a search, while the radio operators at Burnham kept in constant touch with doctors standing by ready to signal advice.

The Discovery edged her way deeper into the ice; never before had a ship sailed so close to the South Pole. In the early hours of a morning several days after the search had begun the Burnham operator startled his colleagues by calling out excitedly: "They've found them!" They were all well so the tired, waiting radio doctors went to bed.

## MARCO POLO'S AMAZING ADVENTURES—the story of an epic journey (6)



Kublai Khan sent Marco on an official tour of inspection to distant parts of his empire. The young man, with a retinue of servants, went from Peking right across China to Burma. In Yunnan province he saw crocodiles for the first time. There was no word for a crocodile in his language, and he called them serpents, thinking they had front legs only. He said they sometimes fought with tigers—and always won.



Marco returned to Peking and then toured the east coast of China, visiting Hangchow, which he said was the finest and noblest city in the world, as at that time it was; Europe had no city approaching it in splendour. It was the centre of Chinese civilisation; its citizens were cultured, artistic, prosperous, and peaceable. But its progress had ended with the recent coming of the Mongol conquerors.



In Marco's time Europeans had never even heard of Japan, but Marco described it, and also Kublai's attempts to conquer the Japanese empire. The last of these attempts took place while Marco was in China. Kublai prepared a huge fleet from which his army landed on Kiu-shiu Island, but a typhoon destroyed the ships on the shore and the Mongol archers, without horses, were utterly defeated by the tough Japanese.



Kublai sent Marco on a mission to India. Marco embarked for this long voyage at Zayton, which may have been Chang-chow. He found the Chinese ships bigger than most of those in Europe. They had four masts, oars worked by ropes, many cabins, lifeboats, and a crew of between 200 and 300 men. They even had watertight compartments, so that a leak in one part of the vessel could be sealed off and the ship saved.

What were Marco's adventures on his great voyage to India? See next week's instalment



The Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1952

A popular author's thrilling new serial of Queen Anne's day

# THE SILKEN SECRET

by Geoffrey Trease

Dick Arlington is a boy in 18th-century London working for a journalist, Pharamus Fazeley. He takes a message to Charles Mount, a Derbyshire silk-manufacturer, who is staying with Mr. Cogwell, a London merchant—but finds that Mr. Mount has mysteriously disappeared. Mr. Mount's niece Celia is afraid he has been murdered.

## 2. A summons for Celia

"MAY I fetch Mr. Fazeley now?" asked Dick eagerly. "We should be vastly obliged," said Mr. Cogwell. "Mr. Mount is not one to play foolish jokes. Yet I should like someone else's advice before going to the Justices."

"I'll be off then, sir." "Take care of yourself," the girl called with a little shiver. Dick laughed reassuringly as he ran through the door. The night, which had been merely black and wet before, was now full of menace. Something unusual, something perilous, was stirring in the city. If Charles Mount—who looked as strong as a bullock—had been plucked from inside his sedan, what might not happen to a solitary boy?

When he neared the Fleet Bridge he looked all ways, straining his ears for the slightest movement in the darkness. Then, heedless of potholes and puddles, he lowered his head and pelted across. He did not slacken his pace until he reached the printing house in Paternoster Row, where he lodged with his master.

Fazeley was writing in his sitting-room upstairs, but he leapt to his feet as Dick blurted out what had happened.

"Tell me the details as we go. Mr. Charles Mount becomes more and more interesting. I think—yes, I think—just to be on the safe side." He opened a drawer and took out a pistol, loaded it with the speed bred of experience, and slipped it into his pocket. "I doubt if we shall run into any adventures," he said with a regretful chuckle, "but one never knows."

They reached Salisbury Square without incident. In the intervening half-hour the two chairmen had been refreshed with tankards of ale in the kitchen, but they remembered no further details likely to help, and they were allowed to go home.

Mr. Cogwell then led the way upstairs to the drawing-room, where the fire had been made up again.

The girl, Celia, had taken advantage of the interval to dress and do her hair. She was smart, Dick realised, as well as good-looking. Whereas his coat had come from a country tailor and was cut in the fashion of the last reign, the girl wore one of the new hooped skirts in a rich cream brocade, spangled with tiny green flowers, which must

have been lately made for her in London.

"I thought it best for Miss Mount to join us," said the old merchant. "Young though she is, she is Mr. Mount's only near relative."

"And he is mine," cut in the girl.

Dick glanced at her curiously. She was very self-possessed. Was she very brave, he wondered, or just hard?

Her calm was partly explained when Fazeley offered his sympathy. She must be very distressed, he said.

"I am, Mr. Fazeley. Uncle Charles has been so kind to me. And I know I am going to get extremely fond of him."

"GOING?" Fazeley echoed, his eyebrows rising. It was seldom the little journalist revealed his surprise so obviously.

"I never saw him until two weeks ago."

"Miss Mount was brought up in America, in Virginia," Mr. Cogwell explained hurriedly. "It is very sad—"

"My parents were drowned," she said in a low, controlled voice. "As I had no other relatives, there was nothing to do but come to Uncle Charles. He has been most generous." Her fingers caressed the rich brocade of her skirt. "But naturally we do not know each other very well yet. Mr. Cogwell has been asking me if Uncle had any enemies. I have no idea."

"I fear that I cannot be much more helpful," said the old merchant. "I have dealt with Mr. Mount for some years past. But only in the way of business, you know. I think he only accepted my invitation to stay here because of the young lady."

"We came straight here from Bristol," said the girl. "Uncle met me when I landed. I am to live

with him in Derbyshire, but I have not been there yet. Now, of course—"

She broke off. This time there was a slight shakiness in her voice.

"Tell me," said Fazeley quickly, twiddling the stem of his empty glass, "has your uncle shown any sign of nervousness since he arrived in London? Has he received any sort of threat—any demand for money?"

"If he had, I don't think he would have told me. Uncle Charles is very—well, he does not talk much."

"I understand," pursued Fazeley, "but, even so, you might have noticed something strange?"

CELIA MOUNT shrugged her shoulders. "My uncle often seems strange," she answered reluctantly. "Perhaps that is my fault." She gave an apologetic little laugh. "I am always being told that I talk too much. Uncle Charles is not married and isn't used to young people. I expect he thinks I am very silly."

"He lives for his business," interrupted Mr. Cogwell, and he sounded approving. He turned to Fazeley. "Surely, if poor Mr. Mount has met with foul play, he might not have had any warning beforehand? Gentlemen are frequently set upon in the dark streets and robbed. You know yourself, sir—"

"I know a good deal about the criminal classes of the town," interrupted Fazeley, "and about their methods. I know those who snatch and run, those who use clubs, those who hold you up at the pistol-point. But I have yet to hear of any who specialised in spiriting their victims out of sedan-chairs, and substituting stones of roughly the same weight!"

"Remarkable," agreed Mr. Cogwell.

"Note the spot: the Fleet Bridge was the one place where loose building materials were lying handy. Then the mysterious cry Mr. Mount thought he heard. The most mysterious feature of that is that neither of those worthy fellows admits to hearing a cry at all."

At that moment the door opened and the old footman shuffled in with every appearance of excitement and relief.

"It's all right, sir. The gentleman's quite safe, sir!"

"Is my uncle back?" cried the girl, starting up.

"No, miss. But he's sent a message. Just word of mouth. Mr. Mount's compliments, sir, and his apologies. Unexpected business. He'll write and explain everything later."

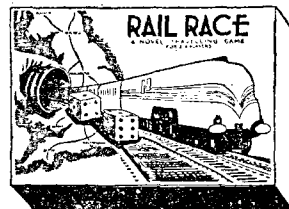
"Who brought this message?" exclaimed the merchant.

"Just a boy, sir. Might have been a boy from an inn."

Continued on page 10



AND EVEN DAD WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THEM



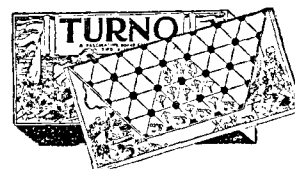
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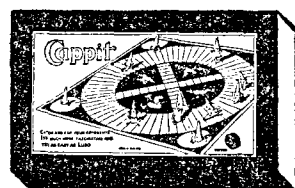
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- 2 Where was the country called Gaul?
- 3 Who were the Voortrekkers?
- 4 Have England, playing at home, ever lost an international soccer match to an overseas side?
- 5 What is known as the Red Planet?
- 6 Zealous means earnest, dangerous, or cumbersome?
- 7 What is the correct name of the hedge sparrow?
- 8 Who invented television?

Answers on page 12



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## SPORTS SHORTS

**MICHAEL BOOKER**, 15-year-old schoolboy of Southgate, Middlesex, recently won the British men's figure-skating championship at his first attempt. Eighteen-year-old Valda Osborne retained her title, and John and Jennifer Nicks of Brighton won the pairs title for the sixth successive year.

**THE M.C.C.'s** drive for better coaching facilities throughout the country is making good progress. The Youth Cricket Council, sponsors of this scheme, recently awarded advanced coaching certificates to 35 players, many of them well-known in county cricket.

**FOR** the third time in succession Daphne Wilkinson of Woolwich has been awarded the T. M. Yeaden Memorial Trophy for the best performance of the year by an English swimmer. She broke the Olympic 400 metres record at Helsinki.

**ALAN COLLIER** plays in goal for the Herts County Schools soccer XI, but inside-right for St. Albans! In a recent match against Barnet he scored a hat trick.

**GERWYN WILLIAMS**, the Welsh Rugby international, is proud of his boys at the Harrow County School, where he is a master; in the first eleven games of the season the First XV scored 201 points. In the New Year they are to play several matches in South Wales.

**YET** another young footballer-cricketer appears on Arsenal's books. Following in the footsteps of the Comptons, Milton, and Bennett comes young Ray Swallow of Tooting, who plays in the A team. Ray is also on the ground staff of Lord's.

**JORGEN ULRICH**, 16-year-old Dane, recently won the Swedish "King's Tankard," Scandinavia's most important indoor lawn tennis tournament. Jorgen comes from a notable Danish tennis family, for his father and his brother Torben have both gained prominence as members of Denmark's teams.

**AT** a recent football match in Prague, the "admission fee" was 20 pounds of old paper, or 10 pounds of rags, or 4 pounds of scrap metal.

**FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD** Hughie Brown of Melbourne obviously has a great cricket future. Playing in a recent match he took all ten wickets for 45 runs.

**WHEN** Tottenham Hotspur toured Canada last summer, they presented a set of "Spurs" badges to the captain of the football team formed among the crew of the C.P. liner Empress of Canada. Wearing those badges the team won the championship of the Mercantile Marine Athletic League, and have since been unbeaten.

**GEOFFREY DUKE** recently became the first motor-cyclist to receive the Segrave Trophy, awarded annually for the outstanding speed performance on land or water, or in the air. Geoff, who was world champion last year, is to become a racing-car driver.

**FOR** 40 years the record of Bob Crompton of Blackburn Rovers in playing in 42 full soccer internationals was unequalled. Earlier this year Billy Wright, captain of Wolverhampton Wanderers and England, beat the record, and recently Tom Finney, popular outside-right of Preston North End, equalled it.



Ann, Christine and Mary Nolan on the tricycle built for them by their father, a cycle dealer in Denton, Lancashire.

## THE SILKEN SECRET

Continued from page 9

"Where is he?" broke in Fazeley sharply. "Can we have him in here, Mr. Cogwell?"

"Beg your pardon, sir," said the footman unhappily, "but he didn't wait."

"Didn't wait!" Mr. Cogwell exploded.

"Have you given us the whole message?" Again it was Fazeley's crisp, quiet voice.

"He'll explain when he writes, sir, but just now he's compelled to leave town at short notice."

"WHAT about me?" the girl demanded.

"Mr. Mount says you're to pack your things and his. And will the master be good enough to put you in a hackney coach tomorrow morning, and tell the man to drive you to Hampstead Heath. Mr. Mount will be looking out for you on the road there at eight o'clock, just beyond the last of the houses."

Fazeley turned to the girl. "Does

this message sound like your uncle?"

"Oh, yes. Very blunt. Not a word wasted. It could very easily come from Uncle Charles."

"But does it?" grumbled Mr. Cogwell. "My dear young lady, I don't think I could possibly send you off to Hampstead like this—"

"But you must, Mr. Cogwell! Uncle Charles would be furious if I weren't there."

"You want to keep this appointment?" asked Fazeley.

"I daren't not keep it."

The journalist looked at Mr. Cogwell. "I think she had better, you know. It is our only link with Mr. Mount—or the people who have spirited him away."

"But, Mr. Fazeley, what if it is a trap—another kidnapping? Even in daylight the Heath is a dangerous place. Suppose it is not her uncle who is waiting for her?"

Mr. Fazeley smiled. "Dick and I will be there to lend a hand."

To be continued

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THIRTY-FIVE Sydney schoolboys, specially selected, have had the adventure of their young lives; they have made a 6000-mile journey by truck into the "dead heart" of Australia.

Here is the story of their journey into a little-known part of the world, as told to a CN correspondent in Australia by two of the boys and their leader, Mr. T. W. Erskine, an experienced explorer, who is science master at a school near Sydney.

The destination of this party of questing youth was Ayer's Rock, 1100 feet high, and sacred to the Aborigines; they knew every legend relating to the many crevices and markings in the rock.

Aborigines in this area of Central Australia live their primitive lives without interference from white men, who must obtain a special Government permit to enter it, on grounds of scientific or educational research. This permit, of course, the schoolboy explorers had obtained.

#### FRIENDLY PEOPLE

"The Abos were on the warpath when we arrived at Ayer's Rock," explained schoolboy John Scurr, "and only a few had returned by the time that we left. They were quite friendly."

The boys saw the natives' deadly spears in action (not aimed at them) and also some perfect demonstrations of boomerang-throwing.

The area round Ayer's Rock belies the name of "dead heart." Clean, fresh water descends from the rock and makes fine water-holes or "soaks." Flowers of many kinds and colours bloom round the base of it.

Most of the boys made the dangerous climb to the summit of this rock of the ages. The descent was even more dangerous.

All the time the boys were in radio communication with civilisation, and with each other when they split up into groups.

There were birds in plenty, some magnificently plumed. Insects, especially ants, were abundant, but there were not many mammals.

Now and again, in the course of their long journey along the rough roads and tracks, the party came across an isolated farm, where a family lived completely alone, hundreds of miles from their nearest neighbour. Stout-hearted pioneers, if ever there were any, all cheerful and happy!

The boys, who were accompanied by a doctor, returned to Sydney fit and well, and loaded with specimens, souvenirs, and a lot of knowledge and experience.

#### BROADER VIEWS

Sydney schoolboy Max Ambrose admirably summed up the impressions of himself and his young colleagues. He said: "It was an honour and a privilege to have been a member of the expedition. I came back to civilisation with a broader and more profound view of life. I feel that the experience will help me to be a better man."

Mr. Erskine, the leader of this expedition, who has already made 12 visits to the "dead heart" of central Australia, proposes to establish a Young Explorers' Club.

## STAMP NEWS

FROM Monaco comes news of a stamp depicting ballet dancers; it will be issued next spring to mark the Festival of Russian Ballet being held at Monte Carlo. From the Portuguese colonies comes a short set commemorating the Exhibition of Missionary Art at Lisbon; and from Poland a pair honouring the International Violin Competition.

STAMPS will mark Coronations in two other countries besides Britain next year. Feisal II is being crowned King of Iraq, and Hussein King of Jordan.



The engravings on these first stamps of the new reign are from a photograph of the Queen by Dorothy Wilding Ltd., instead of the usual formal profile. The 1½d. stamp was designed by Miss Enid Marx, the 2½d. by Mr. M. C. Farrar-Bell.

FOUR of the rare first penny Van Diemen's Land stamps have been found on an old envelope which had been turned inside out to send some other stamps to Bournemouth.

FOUR new stamps issued in Portugal commemorate the Ministry of Public Works.

GOLD COAST will this Friday, December 19, become the first British colony to portray the Queen on a stamp. Her portrait will be in a medallion in the top left corner of a 2½d. stamp depicting a member of the Northern Territories Mounted Constabulary.

### BICYCLES FOR TWO CN READERS

Congratulations to the following two readers, who have each won a bicycle for their entries in our ABC competition (No. 14) of November 15.

Margaret Smith, "Belmont," Lyme Street, Axminster, Devon.

Alan Schofield, "Roseville," 37 Water Lane, Farnley, Leeds.

Ten 10-shilling notes have been awarded as consolation prizes to: Wendy Andrews, Margate; Jennifer Francis, Kendal; Marshall McCulloch, Motherwell; Margaret Robilliard, Guernsey; Roger Shaw, Cheltenham; Rodney Shewan, Coleford; Peter Spinney, Romsey; Janet Veal, Bitterne; Kay Walkinshaw, Edinburgh, 11; Gerald Wright, Leicester.

MISSING LETTERS: B, E, J, M, S, V, W, Y.

## STAMP STORIES (5)

### THROUGH FIRE AND WATER



A century ago, a cabin by the St. Lawrence river was the scene of a fierce struggle between an old man and his thieving nephew for a metal cashbox containing a valuable deed. Suddenly the lamp was knocked over and set fire to the cabin. The old man waited only to throw the box out of the window into the river before escaping from the blaze. Dredging operations discovered the box in 1892 and the stamp on the deed packet—a 12 penny black—was sold for £70.

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## THE BRAN TUB

### SPECTATOR'S VIEW

"I SAY, old chap," said the football captain to the only spectator, "our referee does not look like turning up. Do you know enough about the game to act as referee?"

"I know enough about the game not to," came the retort.

### Hidden occupations

Can you find six occupations hidden in the following sentences?

THE ache felt awful for a time.

Do you know how far Merton is?

Put each ermine robe away carefully.

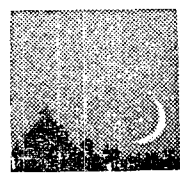
This is a grand river journey.

Is my name at the tail or head of the list?

Answers next week

### OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Venus and Mars are in the south-west, and



Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Saturn is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at six o'clock on Friday evening, December 19.

### Shooting star

SAID an octogenarian from Bristol,

"My vision is clearer than crystal. Believe it or not

I am still a crack shot With a blunderbuss, flintlock, or pistol."

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

UNWELCOME BOARDERS. Crossing the yard to the stables in the dusk, Don was startled by a huge rat running over his toes.

"That's the second one this week," he complained to Farmer Gray.

"There are certainly too many of the rogues about," sympathised the farmer.

"I never saw one during the summer," said Don.

"Probably there are more around in the winter," Farmer Gray answered. "In summer months many rats live in hedge-rows and banks. When cold weather comes they find warmer quarters, where food is more plentiful."

### Saving grace

EACH day he runs like mad to school.

Gets puffed and crimson in the face.

If only he would make a rule To give himself ten minutes' grace!

### From one word

FIVE letters display what we put on the table;

Behold—and avoid being this if you're able;

Now three letters tell what I did when I found

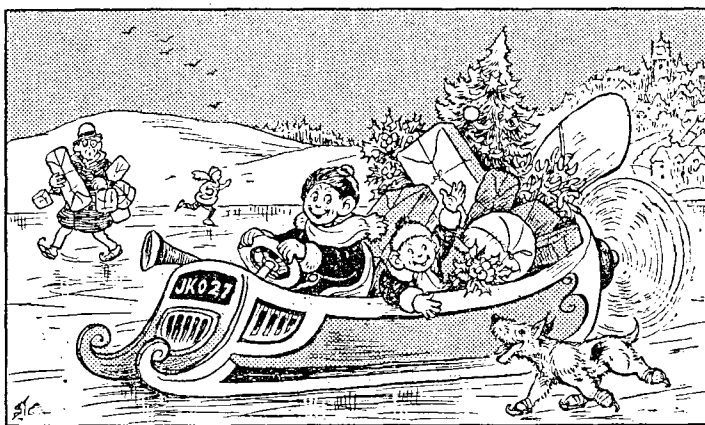
The very same letters just changed slightly round.

Then change me again in a different way

And you'll see straight away what I do every day.

Answer next week

## JACKO SLIDES HOME IN GREAT STYLE



For weeks Jacko had been working on plans of what he claimed would be the only self-propelled sledge in Jackoville. He had collected all sorts of odd things—even an aeroplane propeller! Finally the great day arrived—the lake froze, and Jacko was able to go for a trial spin. It was a doubly enjoyable occasion, for his first journey was to collect the Christmas shopping—and he was quite sure that several of the parcels were for him.

### Hidden places

My first suggests a need of food.

My next, a shallow crossing marks.

Combine the two and you will make

A district in the shire of Berks.

Answer next week

### Missing A's

CAN you fill in the missing letters, indicated by crosses, to make the names of two continents and three countries?

A X X A  
A X X X A  
A X X X A  
A X X X X A  
A X X X X X A

Answers next week

### Word change

CAN you change one word into another by altering a letter each time like this?

Last, list, lint, line, fine.

Now try to change rose into pink, also in four moves.

Rose, rise, risk, rink, pink.

### RODDY



"Mummy, is a space suit one with lots of room in it?"

### CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two letters of the second, and so on.

1. Eighteenth-century poet, son of a London draper; his works are among the most-quoted in the English language.

2. Healing drug derived from certain green moulds and used in the treatment of wounds, pneumonia, etc; discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928.

3. Substance produced in the body to control its use of sugar; lack of it causes diabetes, but it can be supplied where necessary by injection.

4. City and county of Scotland; the city, a capital in the time of the Picts, is noted for its fine harbour, good roads, and beautiful scenery.

Answer next week

### Ever green

SAID a nurseryman hailing from Burnham:

"I must study the trees' names and learn 'em.

For gardeners get cross And complain to the boss, When I send out spruce firs for laburnum."

### Find the dog

A HOLY person gives my first, My second is a christian name.

My whole's a well-known breed of dog, Whose rescue work has earned great fame.

Answer next week

### YOUNG QUIZ—answers

1 The Battle of Trafalgar, in 1805, was ten years earlier than the Battle of Waterloo.

2 Mainly what is now France and Belgium.

3 Early Dutch farmers who trekked north from Cape Colony to what is now Transvaal.

4 No, although some matches have been drawn.

5 Mars.

6 Earnest.

7 Hedge, Accentor.

8 John Logie Baird, in October 1925

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

#### Hidden crossword

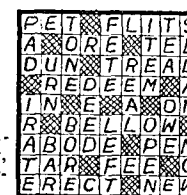
FOR  
OBEY  
ROAR  
MERE

#### Find pussy

Catmint, cat-  
astrophe, Cathay,  
catalogue, cater-  
pillar, cathedral

Hidden places, Braintree

Chain Quiz. Trafalgar, Argo, Goodwin, Indus



## BEDTIME CORNER

### The Mistletoe bird

ONE winter many years ago, when swamps and forests covered much of our land, a Missel Thrush was looking for his dinner. He had eaten all the mountain ash and hawthorn berries for miles around, and, because of the cold, the slugs and worms were deep underground and the snails all hiding.

He searched vainly for a long time, but at last he came to an oak on whose main branch grew a bush covered with pearly berries, the like of which he had never seen before. He had just begun to feed when a voice cried: "Stop!"

He looked up, and there in a hole in the trunk sat the Wise Owl. "Wretched bird," cried the Owl. "Do you not know that those are mistletoe berries, and that the mistletoe is a holy bush from which our priests, the Druids, cut branches at their New Year festival?"

"But surely they would spare me a few berries as I am so

hungry?" the Missel Thrush pleaded.

"On one condition," said the Wise Owl. "That you wipe your beak on a branch afterwards. The berries are sticky, and some seeds may stick to the outside of your beak. If they fall to the ground as you fly they will not grow there, for mistletoe only grows on the branch of another living tree."

"And if I wipe off any seeds onto a branch, a new mistletoe bush may grow there," interrupted the Missel Thrush. "Exactly," said the Wise Owl.

So the Missel Thrush agreed at once to wipe his beak. And, secretly, he was rather glad to do it, for he did not like the taste of the sticky berries very much.

But from that day onwards, so they say, Missel Thrushes have always kept this promise to the Wise Owl.

JANE THORNICROFT



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